

# THE DUNLAP FAMILY

of

Rockbridge County, Virginia; Monroe County,  
Virginia (West Virginia), and Kanawha County,  
West Virginia

By the Rev. J. Arthur Hanna

## INTRODUCTION

1. The name Dunlap (Dunlop). The surname Dunlap is Scottish.<sup>1</sup> It is a well-known Ayrshire name having its origin from the lands of Dunlop in the district of Cunningham, south-west Scotland. The first record of the surname appears in 1260 when Lord William Dunlop (Dominus Willelmus de Dunlop) was recorded as a witness to an indenture between Godfrey de Ross and the burgesses of Irvine. The name is derived from two Gaelic words, "dun," which means "hill fort" or "strong place," and "luib," which means a "bend." The Gaelic "dun" is also found in the Welsh language as "din," in Gallic as "dunon," and the Latinised form is "dunum," and it is kin to the Anglo-Saxon suffix "don," and "tun," from which our word "town" is derived. The Dunlaps were Celts.<sup>2</sup>

2. Dunlaps (Dunlops) in Scotland. Neil Fitz-Robert De Dunlap subscribed his allegiance to King Edward I of England in the "Ragman Rolls" (1296). In 1306 his estates were forfeited along with the estates of the de Rosses, on the accession of Bruce, for supporting John Balliol in the contest for the Scottish crown.<sup>3</sup> The Dunlop estates were returned later to the family, as the various records claim, but there are many gaps in the history of the family for the next century. In 1400 the word "de" was dropped in favor of "of that ilk."<sup>4</sup> Some of the outstanding members of the family were: James (14th

<sup>1</sup> George Fraser Black, *The Surnames of Scotland* (New York: New York Public Library, 1946), page 226.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. John F. Payne, *Dunlop Parish* (Edinburgh: T. & A. Constable, Ltd., 1935), pages 1-2.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, page 124.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, page 125.

century), John (cir. 1407), John (1450), Constantine (Laird of Hunthall, 1483; died 1505), Alexander (cir. 1476), John (cir. 1507), Alexander (cir. 1509), James (cir. 1547),<sup>5</sup> Alexander (cir. 1558), James (1596), James (cir. 1617), James (cir. 1634), and Alexander (cir. 1670).<sup>6</sup> Alexander Dunlop held the lands of Dunlop from 1670 until 1683 when he went over to Ulster (North Ireland). He was a Covenanter and a champion of Presbyterianism. He was a son of James and Elisabeth Cunningham Dunlop; James was an outstanding leader of the Covenanters also, and it was he who built the aisle of the Church at Dunlop. His initials and those of his beloved wife, with the likenesses of their faces, are included in the ornamental work of the aisle gable.<sup>7</sup> Alexander Dunlop married Antonia Brown and had among many others Captain Alexander Dunlop (1716-1744) who came to the Valley of Virginia before 1730 with his brothers and sisters. Alexander Dunlop, father of Captain Dunlop, served as a soldier at the Siege of Londonderry, Ulster, 1689, against the Roman Catholic forces of King James II (1685-1689) of England.

## I

DUNLAPS IN THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA  
CAPTAIN ALEXANDER DUNLOP (1716-1744), HIS SONS,  
AND SISTER, MARY ELISABETH DUNLAP  
OF SENECA TRAIL FAME

The Scottish-British-American ancestor of the Virginia Dunlaps was Captain Alexander Dunlop, a Captain of the Horse, who came from Scotland by way of Ulster with his many brothers and his famous sister, Mary Elisabeth Dunlap, who is mentioned as a heroine in the *Seneca Trail*.<sup>8</sup> This family, along with numerous Scotch and Scotch-Irish settlers, settled

<sup>1</sup> James Dunlop (cir. 1574) was the great-great-great-great-grandfather of the novelist Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832), as well as the ancestor of the author of this essay.

<sup>2</sup> *Byrne, op. cit.*, pages 122-127.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pages 96, 127.

<sup>4</sup> Rev. J. Arthur Hanna, *History of The Hanna Families of Scotland, North Ireland, America, 1150-1903*, page 104 (privately printed). Mary Elisabeth Dunlop married Lt. Jacob Warwick (1710-1753) of Williamsburg, Virginia. Many of their descendants are to be found in Virginia and West Virginia today, principally in the Warwick line; Camerons, Dunlaps, Hannahs, Gatewoods, Harmons, and Matthews are legitimate descendants.

in Augusta County (now Rockbridge and Augusta, etc.), Virginia, near Calfpasture. It was the Captain who built and at one time owned Goshen. Some of his known kinsmen were: Captain James Dunlap, William Dunlap, and Hugh Dunlap. Hugh Dunlap settled in Knoxville, Tennessee, and had two illustrious sons: General Richard G. Dunlap (1775-1859), who was Secretary of War in the Texas Republic, and William Claiborne Dunlap, a brilliant statesman.<sup>9</sup>

Captain Dunlop married Elisabeth Anne MacFarlane (1715-1786) in 1737, who was born in Scotland, and was a daughter of Caleb MacFarlane, the Chief of the Clan MacFarlane, whose lands near Loch Lomond were proscribed before 1720.<sup>10</sup> To this union we have a record of four children, three sons and one daughter: (1) John Dunlap (1738-1804), (2) Ensign Robert Dunlap (1740-1781), (3) Colonel Alexander Dunlap (1743-1828), and (4) Elisabeth Anne MacFarlane Dunlap (1744-).

1. John Dunlap (1738-1804). He married in 1761 Anne Clark, daughter of James and Elisabeth MacCutcheon Clark of Augusta County, Virginia, a relative of General George Rogers Clark. His Will is dated February 25, 1804, recorded April 3, 1804. Anne Clark Dunlap's Will is dated May 19, 1808, recorded April 3, 1809. He served as a private in Captain John Peyton Harrison's Company, Colonel Alexander Spotswood 2nd Virginia Regiment, 1777-1779. Descendants of this particular family may be found in Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, and Illinois. Mr. Phillip Marion Dunlap, of Route 1, Chillicothe, Ohio, is descended from John Dunlap. Mrs. Esther Mae Winget Warner of Xenia, Ohio, is also a descendant. She is the author of two fine genealogical works: *The Goodman Family* (1942) and *The Warner Family* (1954).

2. Ensign Robert Dunlap (1740-1781). He was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, and married in 1763 Mary Gay, a daughter of William and Mary Walkup Gay of Ulster, a granddaughter of Rev. William Gay of Belfast, Ulster, who came to British-America and settled Gay's Run, Virginia.<sup>11</sup> The Gay family is like the Dunlap, Scottish (cir. 1452). Ensign Dunlap

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, page 104.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, page 104.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, page 104.

was slain at the Battle of Guilford Court House after refusing to obey orders to retreat, January 23, 1781.<sup>12</sup> His Will was filed March 5, 1782, in Rockbridge County, Virginia. It was dated January 23, 1781. His widow married, February 3, 1785, James Coursey in Rockbridge County, Virginia. He lived at Aspen Grove, Virginia, the place he built. Ensign Robert and Mary Gay Dunlap had the following children: (1) The Honourable Alexander Dunlap (1764-1841) who married Jane Alexander; (2) Anne Dunlap (1765-1814) who married in 1788 David MacKee (MacKay), a son of John and Jane Logan MacKee; (3) Major William Dunlap (1767-1834), also of "Aspen Grove," who married Elisabeth Coursey, a daughter of Captain James Coursey of Orange County, Virginia; (4) Robert Dunlap (1773-1858) who married in 1793 Martha Graham, a daughter of John and Martha Patton Graham descended from the Earl of Montrose or Preston, Clan Graham, Scotland;<sup>13</sup> (5) Margaret Dunlap who married William Dennison and removed to Missouri; (6) John Dunlap who married Mary Hickman and organized the first Temperance Society in the Valley of Virginia; (7) Agnes Dunlap (1779-1860) who married Samuel MacCutcheon, the founder of the Lebanon Presbyterian Church in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

3. Colonel Alexander Dunlap (1743-1828). He was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, and in 1768 married Agnes Gay (1745-1804), a daughter of James and Jean Warwick Gay, granddaughter of Rev. William Gay of Belfast, Ulster. He was the founder of the Pisgah Presbyterian Church and the Pisgah Academy which later became Transylvania University, Kentucky. He built Clover Lick Fort, Virginia, and served as a private in Colonel Patterson Bell's Regiment, 5th Company, 8th Battalion, Chester County Militia, 1778. Colonel Dunlap is buried in the Red Oak Presbyterian Cemetery near Georgetown and Ripley, Ohio (Rev. James Edgar Tweddle is Stated Supply of the Red Oak Church, since 1947). Colonel Alexander and Agnes Gay Dunlap had the following children: (1) Colonel James Dunlap (1769-1821) who married in 1797 Elisa-

<sup>12</sup> Frederick A. Virtue, editor, *The Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy: First Families of America* (Chicago, 1925), Volume I, page 381.

<sup>13</sup> Rev. Howard MacKnight Wilson, *The Tinkling Spring: Headwater of Freedom* (Richmond: Garrett & Massey, Inc., 1904), pages 20-23.

beth Stevenson, a daughter of John and Mary Moore Stevenson, granddaughter of John and Martha Warwick Stevenson of Licking County, Kentucky;<sup>14</sup> (2) Anne Dunlap (1770-1858) who married William Kinkead (1769-1855), son of Captain William and Eleanor Gay Kinkead of Woodford County, Kentucky; (3) William Dunlap (1772-1849) who married in 1797 Mary Shepherd; (4) Polly Dunlap who married James Stevenson, Jr., a clerk in Woodford County, Kentucky; (5) Agnes Dunlap who married in 1801 Dr. Alexander Campbell of Winchester, Virginia, a son of Alexander and Joanna Nelson Campbell;<sup>15</sup> (6) Sarah Dunlap who married in 1811 Thomas Dickings (1788-1860) a son of Thomas Dickings, Sr., of Princess Anne County, Virginia; (7) Robert Dunlap; (8) Margaret Dunlap who married Rev. Samuel Thornton Scott, D.D.;<sup>16</sup> (9) Colonel Alexander Dunlap (1785-1844) who married Mary Caldwell in 1811, a daughter of George Caldwell, and a relative to John Caldwell Calhoun, the famous Southern statesman.

4. Elisabeth Anne MacFarlane Dunlap (1744-). Not much is known of her. She married, first, William Warwick and they lived in Pennsylvania. After Mr. Warwick's death she married Andrew Sittlinger of Pennsylvania.

## II

### DUNLAPS REMOVE (IN PART) TO MONROE COUNTY, VIRGINIA (WEST VIRGINIA)

The Honourable Alexander Dunlap (1764-1841) of Monroe County, Virginia, was the first child of Ensign Robert and Mary Gay Dunlap of Rockbridge County, Virginia. He married in 1795 Jane Alexander (born 1775), a daughter of Captain James (1750-1814) and Isabella Erskine Alexander, Jr.<sup>17</sup> The

<sup>14</sup> Colonel James and Elisabeth Stevenson Dunlap removed to Ohio in 1798. He was a State Senator and also served in the War of 1812. As a young man in Virginia he was sent from Clover Lick Fort to Warwick Fort to bring molasses to repel Indian attacks; he was placed on a tarred stallion and made the trip.

<sup>15</sup> Dr. Campbell was a speaker in the Ohio Legislature; he was U. S. Post Master General, a Senator from Ohio from 1810 until 1813.

<sup>16</sup> Dr. Scott founded the first Presbyterian Church in Indiana at Vincennes, 1801. He became the first President of Vincennes University. He was the son of William Scott, one of the first Ruling Elders of the Pisgah Presbyterian Church, Pisgah, Kentucky.

<sup>17</sup> Owen F. Morton, Esq., B. Litt., *A History of Monroe County, West Virginia* (Shepherd, Virginia, 1917), pages 226-227.

Alexanders and the Erskines were descended from ancient Scottish families. Captain James Alexander, Jr. was the son of Captain James Alexander, Sr. (died 1778), an officer in the Old French-Indian War. The Alexander family has given many notable clergymen to the Southern Presbyterian Church as well as the Dunlaps.<sup>18</sup> Captain James Alexander, Jr. saw service at the Battle of Point Pleasant, October 14, 1774.

Hon. Alexander Dunlap served his county of Monroe vigorously. He was interested in local and state government, in education.<sup>19</sup> He served as a delegate from Monroe County to the Virginia Assembly 1823-1826, and again from 1826 until 1827.<sup>20</sup> He also served as an Ensign in the Militia System of Colonial Virginia under J. Byrnside in 1799.<sup>21</sup> He was a sheriff in 1818.<sup>22</sup>

The Honourable Alexander and Jane Alexander Dunlap had the following children: (1) Robert A. Dunlap (1796-1823) who married in 1823 Rebecca Pack; (2) Isabella Dunlap (1798-1862) who married in 1821 James M. Haynes; (3) James A. Dunlap (1799-1840) who married in 1831 Frances MacElheny; (4) Addison Dunlap (1801-1870) who married in 1831 Elisabeth Johnson, second, 1834, Clara Petrie; (5) Benjamin G. Dunlap (1806-1884) who married Rebecca Larew; (6) Adaline Dunlap (1808-1828) who married John Vawter; (7) Alexander Dunlap, Jr. (1812-1853) who married in 1838 Ann Shanklin, a daughter of Robert and Polly Stukeley Shanklin;<sup>23</sup> (8) Mary P. Dunlap (1816-1882) who married a cousin, Rev. Mitchell G. Dunlap (1809-1891), in 1843, a Southern Presbyterian clergyman; (9) Elisabeth Jane Dunlap (1810 or 1812-1882) who married a cousin, 1836, Frank G. Dunlap of Monroe County, Virginia.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Consult *Ministerial Directory of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., 1861-1941. Revised and Supplemented 1942-1950*, Rev. E. C. Scott, Editor (Atlanta, Hubbard Printing Company, 1950).

<sup>19</sup> Morton, *op. cit.*, pages 142, 143, 193, 249.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, page 402.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, page 296.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, page 467.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, pages 241, 422, 438, 467.

<sup>24</sup> It is unfortunate that Mr. Morton in his splendid history unintentionally omitted the name of Elisabeth Jane Dunlap and Frank G. Dunlap. Mr. Morton states in his brilliant volume (pages 250-251): "Few families in the South can surpass the Dunlaps of Rockbridge in exhibiting so many members who have been large land-owners, or have been conspicuous in public, professional, or military life. The Dunlaps dispute with one other Rockbridge connexion the honor of furnishing the most ministers of the Southern Presbyterian Church."

There were three grandsons of the Honourable Alexander Dunlap who fought for the Southern Cause (1861-1865). Charles H. Dunlap (1839-1904), the son of Addison and Clara Petrie Dunlap, married Martha S. Bates in 1862. He was a 2nd Sergeant in Thurmond's Rangers. Later he served in Lowry's Battery as a 3rd Lieutenant in June of 1861. The company was attached to the 13th Battalion of Light Artillery and it was disbanded at Christiansburg a few days later after the surrender of General Robert Edward Lee, April of 1865. Mr. Dunlap also served as a Deacon in the Centreville Presbyterian Church from 1889 to 1904.

Addison Dunlap, Jr., the brother of Charles H., was also a Southern soldier serving in the Thurmond's Rangers. He married in 1874 Julia Blair and settled in Texas.

Henry Dunlap (1848-1915), the son of Alexander Dunlap, Jr., and Mary Shanklin Dunlap, served as a Southern soldier in Bryan's Battery of Pulaski County, Virginia. He married, first, Amelia Margaret Humphreys of Monroe County, Virginia; he married, second, after her death, Margaret E. Nicholson.

### III

#### DUNLAPS IN THE KANAWHA VALLEY, WEST VIRGINIA

Many of the Dunlaps remained in Monroe County, Virginia (now West Virginia) and they are represented by Edward Patterson Dunlap of Greenville, West Virginia, and by others of the Dunlap name. Many of an earlier Dunlap family branch are represented by Miss Henrietta Campbell Dunlap of Lexington, Virginia. The Dunlaps have given to the Valley of Virginia ministers, doctors, educators, teachers, statesmen, soldiers, farmers, and attorneys. We find Dunlaps of this ancient race living in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, being represented by Keith A. Dunlap, son of the late Golden Hansford Dunlap of Charleston, of Lewisburg a successful farmer and prominent in politics.

It was Elisabeth Jane Dunlap and her husband Frank G. Dunlap who removed to the Kanawha Valley before the War

Between the States. Their only son was Franklin Francis Dunlap (1837-1891) a successful farmer and real estate dealer in the Loudon District of Kanawha County. He married in 1859 Sarah Davis (1837-1908), a daughter of Rev. L. Thomas Davis (1798-1878), one of the sons of the first settler near Charleston and who at one time owned nearly 3,000 acres of land and gave his name to Davis Creek. Rev. Davis was of Welsh descent; he married Sarah Means, the daughter of Hugh and Sarah Snodgrass Means, Jr., early Scotch settlers in Botetourt County, Virginia.<sup>25</sup>

Franklin F. and Sarah Davis Dunlap had nine children: (1) Peter Cartwright Dunlap (1863-1935) who married Samantha Kinder and to this union eleven children were born; (2) Emma Dunlap (1865-1921) who married Leonard Holstein and to this union were born four children; (3) Robert S. Dunlap (1867-1927) who married in 1892 Mary E. Stone and to this union one son, Marcus Talmadge Dunlap, Tad, West Virginia, was born; <sup>26</sup> (4) Stanhope F. Dunlap (1869-); (5) Andrew Jackson Dunlap (1871-1908) who married Nettie Midkiff and to this union seven children were born; (6) Rome Ervin Dunlap (1873-) who married Lydia Angel and to whom were born nine children; (7) Golden Hansford Dunlap (1877-1951) who married Margaret Catherine Means to whom eleven children were born; (8) Alice Catherine Dunlap (1879-) who married Hubert Martin of Charleston; (9) James Brady Dunlap (1882-1954) who married in 1900 Margie Childress, daughter of Robert Lee and Elisabeth Ann Pauley Childress, to whom four children were born.

Strange, but true, the Dunlaps of this particular connexion, though of Southern heritage, always remained staunch Republicans. Most of the family and their off-spring are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Kanawha Valley; however, in Monroe County and in Virginia they are Presbyterians. All branches of this prolific family have been greatly influenced by General Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870) and many are named for this great leader.

<sup>25</sup> W. S. Laidley, *History of Charleston and Kanawha County, West Virginia, and Representative Citizens*, 1911.

<sup>26</sup> The Honorable Marcus Talmadge Dunlap is the mayor of Tad, West Virginia and is an honored merchant. His wife is the former Gladys Dunbar.



James Brady and Margie Childress Dunlap had the following children: (1) Myrtle Lee Dunlap (1901-1949) who married Julian Anton Hanna of Marietta, Ohio;<sup>27</sup> (2) James Searl Dunlap who married Velma Miller of Ripley, West Virginia; (3) Sylvia who married Noah Nichols of Charleston; (4) Mabel Catherine who married Todd Givens. Mr. Dunlap, a very well-built man standing in his stocking-feet over six-foot three inches and weighing over two-hundred fifty pounds, was a successful farmer, planter, real estate dealer, and merchant in the Loudon and Jefferson Districts, Kanawha County, for over fifty years. He was active in church, schools, and all public affairs, and contributed generously to the poor and needy of the community. He was an active member in the Republican Party and championed its cause; he was a member all his life of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Following the death of his beloved wife, Margie Childress in 1911, he married in 1913 Ida Mae Barker of Charleston; to this second union one daughter was born. It is very fitting that she was named Virginia. Mr. Dunlap passed away suddenly in Charleston, Tuesday, January 5, 1954 after a brief illness and was buried in the Dunlap Family lot at Graceland Memorial Cemetery near Ruth, January 7, 1954. Over one thousand representative citizens of Kanawha County paid their last respects to this fine outstanding Christian gentleman. His wife resides on the Dunlap Estate.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> *Home of Me*, pages 81, 82.

<sup>28</sup> See *Facilities Book*, Book 1188, page 272, Kanawha County Court House, Charleston, West Virginia (1954).

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<sup>27</sup> Hanna, *op. cit.*, page 82, 83.

<sup>28</sup> See Partition Decree, Book 1005, page 275, Kanawha County Court House, Charleston, West Virginia (1954).